TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DAUPHIN COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA.

VOL. 1, PART 2. HARRISBURG. JUNE, 1904.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1903. The Society met in the Court House Annex, at 7.30 o'clock, President KELLER in the Chair.

Members present: ALRICKS, L. B., ARMOR, BAER, BASHORE, BEATTY, H. J., DEMMING, B. W., DULL, C., EBY, M. C., FAGER, A. J., FAGER, Dr. C. B., Sr., FLEMING, S. W., FREEBURN, FRY, GILBERT, Rev. Dr. D. M., GILBERT, S. C., GORGAS, G. A., GORGAS, W. L., HAMILTON, JONES, J. M., KEEFER, KELKER, L. R., KELLER, C. K., KLEIN, KUNKEL, C. A., KUNKEL, Mrs. C. A., KUNKEL, Mrs. E. C., KUNKEL, Dr. G. B., LAMBERTON, MCCORMICK, J., Jr., MCDEVITT, MILLER, MONTGOMERY, J., NEAD, B. F., NEAD, B. M., PARTHEMORE, PEARSON, W., PENNYPACKER, PETERS, SMITH, SNODGRASS, STRANAHAN, YODER, YOUNG and ZOLLINGER.

Many visitors, both ladies and gentlemen, were present.

The reading of the Minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with.

Donations received since last meeting:

From JAMES M. LAMBERTON, Esq.:

Proclamation of Hon. John D. Patterson, Mayor of Harrisburg, dated July 22, 1877, regarding the "Railroad Riots."

Memorial Volume of the Celebration by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania of the Sesqui-centennial Anniversary of the Initiation of George Washington as a Freemason.

From C. P. Humerick, Esq., of Carlisle:

List of the marriage licenses issued by John Agnew, Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Cumberland County, at Carlisle, from 1771-1789, with the date of the issue and the amount of the license paid.

From Mr. Edmund Mather:

Fifteenth Annual Report of the Harrisburg Water Department.

From Mr. William M. Meginnes, Williamsport:

Memorial of John Franklin Meginnes, of Williamsport, Penn'a, 1827-1899.

By mail:

Publication No. 6, Vol. 7, of the Lancaster County Historical Society.

The Harrisburg Volunteer Firemen's Beneficial Association.

Publication No. 4, Vol. 2, Lebanon County Historical Society.

Five nominations for Resident Membership were made and referred to the Executive Committee, under the rules.

An order was granted for $14.75 in favor of F. L. Hutter for printing and binding.

The regular order of business was, on motion, suspended, and the following programme was carried out, celebrating the Thirty-Fourth Anniversary of the Society, except that a paper entitled "Old Time Militia Training," prepared by Mr. George Bucher Ayres, of Philadelphia, was read by Vice-President Klein; and the address of Attorney General Carson was omitted on account of his absence.

The notice of the meeting, containing the programme, was as follows:

1869.

(*FIRST NOTICE.*)

HARRISBURG, PENNA., May 10, 1869

Dear Sir:

Knowing that you feel a deep interest in the preservation of the Historical Records of our County, so rich in old-time memories, you are cordially invited to unite with others for the purpose of organizing a Local Historical Society, on Thursday Evening next, May 13, at 7 o'clock, at the residence of Dr. Wm. H. Egle, No. 131 Walnut Street.

If you are unable to be present, be kind enough to inform Rev. Thos. H. Robinson, D.D., of your co-operation in the movement.

OFFICERS, 1869.

A. BOYD HAMILTON ..... President
HAMILTON ALRICKS, ESQ. ..... Vice-President
REV. THOS. H. ROBINSON, D. D. ..... Corresponding Secretary
J. MONTGOMERY FORSTER ..... Recording Secretary
JOHN A. WIER ..... Treasurer
RUDOLPH F. KELKER ..... Librarian

1903.

HARRISBURG, PENNA., May 11, 1903.

The Thirty-fourth Anniversary meeting of the Historical Society of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, will be held on Thursday evening, May 14, 1903, at 7.30 o'clock, in its room in the Court House Annex. The members and their friends are cordially invited to be present.

WILLIAM H. FRY,
WARREN A. ZOLLINGER,
HENRY J. BEATTY,
Executive Committee.

OFFICERS, 1903.

JUDGE JOHN W. SIMONTON.....President (Died February 12, 1903)
DR. JOHN P. KELLER .....President (Elected February 26, 1903)
HON. THEODORE B. KLEIN .....First Vice-President
BENJAMIN M. NEAD, ESQ. .....Second Vice-President
ROBERT SNODGRASS, ESQ. .....Third Vice-President
JAMES M. LAMBERTON .....Corresponding Secretary
WILLIAM C. ARMOR, ESQ. .....Recording Secretary
WILLIAM S. RUTHERFORD .....Treasurer
WILLIAM A. KELKER .....Librarian
HALDEMAN O'CONNOR .....Assistant Librarian

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME WILL BE OBSERVED

1 Introductory Address .....JAMES M. LAMBERTON, ESQ.
2 Address .....HON. HAMPTON L. CARSON
Attorney General of Penna.
3 Paper: "Memories and Incidents of the Lancasterian School" .....HON. THEODORE B. KLEIN
Deputy Secretary of Internal Affairs.
4 Address ..... HIS EXCELLENCY GOV. SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER
5 Refreshments

A few pleasant words of greeting from President KELLER were followed by

Introductory Address,

By James M. Lamberton, Esq.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

To me has been assigned the pleasant duty of extending to you a welcome to this anniversary meeting, or, as it is printed on the programme, of making the introductory address. Speaking for the Society, I may say with Capulet, fair Juliet's father,—

"This night I keep an old accustomed feast
Whereto I have invited many a guest, such as I love,
And you among the number."

We are especially pleased to see the ladies, and it is a great source of satisfaction that we have in our membership a number of them; and this satisfaction of the local historians in their company, leads me to the conclusion that Herodotus, the "Father of History," must have been a ladies' man, although his writings are silent, I am sorry to say, on this most interesting and most important subject.

There is one slight embarrassment which we feel on account of the presence of the ladies; and that is, we must be careful in speaking of our age. For a reason which will appear later, I will confess that we are at least twenty-one.

In the early part of the year 1869, thirty-two of the leading citizens of Harrisburg formed our Society. (A copy of the first notice sent out is upon our programme this evening.) Of the thirty-two, eight are living, and of the eight, four are still connected with the Society. These four are Mr. Rudolph F. Kelker, our first Librarian, and the father of our present efficient Librarian, a chip of the old block, or, better, a leaf of the old book; Major William C. Armor, who has served us faithfully as Recording Secretary for the last twelve years; and the Honorable Lyman D. Gilbert, who secured for us our charter from the Court; while the honored name of the Reverend Thomas H. Robinson, D.D., our first Corresponding Secretary, is on the list of our Corresponding Members, and also on our very select list of Honorary Members.

We have had, since the beginning, two hundred and sixty-two Resident Members, and at the present time the active membership amounts to one hundred and fifteen, of whom, I am happy to say, five are ladies.

We have had twenty-seven Corresponding Members, of whom eighteen are still living, to the best of our information.

Our list of Honorary Members is very small, and, in order that the honor may not be lessened by too indiscriminate election, it is now provided by our Revised By-Laws, that only three persons may be elected Honorary Members in any one year.

Of the six, Col. John Roberts and Gen. Edward C. Williams have entered into rest; Mr. George Bucher Ayres lives in Philadelphia; the Reverend Doctor Robinson, in Allegheny; and we are so fortunate as to have with us this evening one of the remaining two, who have been elected under our Revised By-Laws, His Excellency, the Honorable Samuel W. Pennypacker, Governor of the Commonwealth, who has just been re-elected President of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; the sixth is the learned Attorney General of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Hampton L. Carson, whom we had expected to have with us this evening.

We have had only four Presidents: Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton, Dr. William H. Egle, Judge John W. Simonton, and our present executive, Dr. John P. Keller. We have had fifteen Vice-Presidents, including the three present officers, five Corresponding Secretaries, three Recording Secretaries, five Treasurers, five Librarians, and four Assistant Librarians.

The Society has had its periods of depression; when I was elected in 1884, we had difficulty in getting a quorum. We then met in the room opposite the City Treasurer's Office, and, owing to the racks of newspapers, there was hardly sufficient room to swing the traditional cat, at least with any comfort to the cat. In 1895, we moved into the present room, which the County Commissioners very kindly fitted up for us.

It was due to the initiative of our Society, that the very successful celebration of the centennial anniversary of the formation of this

County in 1885, was undertaken, and the Memorial Volume was the work of a member of our Society, Dr. William H. Egle.

A person is regarded in law as an infant, *i. e.* one who cannot speak for himself, until he reaches the age of twenty-one, and it is for this reason that I was willing a while ago to confess that age for our Society; because our Society has now come to the conclusion that it is old enough to speak for itself, and it is intended hereafter to issue its "Transactions," and to that end the Committee on Publication has just prepared and issued to the members, the Charter, By-Laws and what I may call a tentative list of its members; and I may say just here, that the Corresponding Secretary will be glad to receive corrections and additions, so that when the first part of our "Transactions" is issued, the list of members may be complete and correct, if possible.

I fear to continue further, lest you should be of the opinion of the boy, of whom I heard recently. A distinguished Presbyterian divine, in Philadelphia, was entertaining at luncheon a number of his brethren of the cloth, after he had preached the sermon, upon what was regarded as an important occasion; and, as was natural, at the luncheon, the sermon of the morning came under discussion, and many complimentary things were said of it by the theologians present.

Suddenly, President Patton, of Princeton, turned to the clergyman's son, who was present at the table, and said: "My boy, what did you think of your father's sermon; I noticed that you paid good attention," (a remark which pleased the boy's mother). "Well," said the boy, and they all listened to hear what he would say, "I guess it was very fine, but there were three mighty good places where he could have stopped."

Vice-President Klein then read the following paper by an Honorary Member of this Society:

Old-Time Militia Training.

By Mr. George Bucher Ayres.

Among the unique occurrences of my boyhood was the annual militia training—with its aftermath of fun and frolic.

A law enacted in April, 1822, required that "every free able-bodied white male person who has resided within this Commonwealth for one month, and is between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, shall be *enrolled* in the militia." And further, "that the militia shall be *paraded* and *trained,* in Companies and Battalions," commencing respectively on the first and second Mondays of May in every year, etc.

Persons who were members of any duly organized Volunteer Company were not included; and were totally exempt after seven years' service in any such company.

Consequently these trainings and parades were made regular gala times that came with the flowers of May. The duties on the first Monday—or "Muster Day," as it was called—required only attendance at such places as were designated by the officer of each company (usually some convenient tavern or other public house) and answering the roll-call.

This was a simple duty and soon over. In case of non-attendance, without legitimate excuse, a fine of one dollar was imposed; but I think the collection of it was problematical.

The second Monday, or "Battalion Day," was the one great day; although the law directed "that battalion parades and trainings [if not finished in one day]" were to be "continued on every day in the week except Sunday, until all the battalions shall be paraded."

For neglect or refusal to attend the parades, fines were imposed as follows: on Field Officers, $5; Staff and Captains, $3; Subaltern officer, $2; non-commissioned officer and private, $1; and the same fines were laid upon any who left the ranks without permission.

The Battalion parade was held in some good field in the neighborhood—dry, level, and otherwise suitable—to which each company marched from its rendezvous in the town.

The fence enclosing the parade-ground was always lined on the inside with wagons and booths of all kinds, arranged for the sale of eatables and drinkables suited to the occasion—cakes, pies, fruit, sandwiches, doughnuts, candies, nuts, &c.

These were "washed down" with plentiful quantities of home-made ginger beer, sarsaparilla, lemonade, and, of course, coffee, tea and milk. "Soft drinks" prevailed exclusively, as intoxicating liquors of any kind were forbidden by law, within a half mile of the limits of the parade—except at licensed inns—and officers were empowered to break up all booths or places where liquor was being sold contrary to this regulation.

As might be supposed, in that "piping time of peace," there were no uniforms, and no arms for the use of a general turn-out of citizens liable to military duty. A half-century had elapsed since the Revolution, and a generation had passed since the War of 1812; and although there were a few survivors of the former, and quite a number of the latter still in active life, their "bruised arms" were "hung up for monuments," and their uniforms were being moth-eaten in the old garrets.

Nevertheless, some specimen relics of the ancient regimentals were rooted out to join the motley array of the militia. And so they all appeared in line, accoutred in the old, or any sort of costume *a la militaire.* Burlesque epaulets, buttons, colored tapes, or ribbons, tacked upon ordinary dress, served as military trimmings to compose very grotesque temporary "uniforms."

But the "arms" were even more heterogenous; old muskets, shot guns, rifles, broom-sticks, walking canes, corn-stalks, and what not! This armory would have rivalled that of Falstaff's crew.

The field officers, however, were full-rigged in the "pomp and circumstance of most glorious war," and mounted on mettled steeds chosen for the day. The music was, of course, that of the ear-piercing fife and the spirit-stirring drum, with perhaps the addition of the old copper bugle. I remember the leading musicians well; and they played the same tunes by which they marched to Baltimore in 1812.

The "training" of our militia was promiscuous, indeed. The field

evolutions were astonishing, and quite as "mixed" as the arms and uniforms—but the requirements of the law were fulfilled. The military exercises occupied but an hour or two, and then the occasion was given over to pleasure.

"Grim-visaged war smoothed his wrinkled front," and the "stern alarums were changed to merry meetings." Indeed, Battalion Day made a sort of picnic for the whole town, while the country folks gathered in from all directions. Old and young, men and maidens, rich and poor, white and black, town and country, all combined in the most unique conglomeration of the year—ate, drank, and were merry all the day long.

But this annual performance of "playing soldier," with its frolicking accompaniment, came to an end.

A law was enacted April 17, 1849, which repealed "all former laws and supplements to laws on the subject of the militia, revised the military system, and provided for the training of such only as shall be uniformed." This was further supplemented by the general Act of April 13, 1887, "to provide for the organization, discipline and regulation of the National Guard of Pennsylvania." This magnificent body, illustrating the highest qualities of citizen soldiery, remains to-day a grand monument to the formative genius of General John F. Hartranft (Governor), while it is also peerless among the military organizations of our sister States.

Our First Vice-President, and the present Deputy Secretary of Internal Affairs, was introduced and read the following paper:

Memories and Incidents of the Lancasterian School.

By the Hon. Theodore B. Klein.

What was known, in years gone by, as the "Lancasterian" Schoolhouse, was erected in East Walnut street in the Borough of Harrisburg, and named in honor of the founder (of a system based upon monitor or mutual instruction) whose name was Lancaster, a native of England.

A school would be divided into several sections, according to the requirements of the scholars, over each one of which (appointed by the master) was a monitor—generally the most intelligent and advanced scholar—whose duty it was to superintend the instruction of his companions in the section to which he was assigned. All of the sections were under the general superintendence of the chief instructor. An Act of Assembly passed the 11th of April, 1827, authorized the Commissioners of Dauphin County to establish a public school in the Borough of Harrisburg. This act authorized the Commissioners to use any part of the Court House, or to build or procure a suitable building in which the children should be taught at the public expense.

On the fourth of July, 1827, the County Commissioners, consisting of Messrs. Brua, Rathfon and Moody, adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the teacher employed by the Commissioners of the County be directed to receive into the school to be instructed, all the children whose tuition is required by law to be paid by the County residing in the Borough of Harrisburg, or within one mile thereof. Other children to be admitted into the school at the rate of one dollar per quarter of a year, to be paid for the use of the County. A reduction from this rate to be allowed according to the circumstances of the parents of the children, at the discretion of the Commissioners.

William C. Jenks was appointed the first teacher, at a salary of $550 per annum, on the 11th of May, 1827, and was re-elected in April, 1828, at a salary of $800 per annum. At this period, the whole number of children taught in the school was three hundred.

The late Honorable Alexander Ramsey, of Minnesota, (a native of Dauphin County, who occupied many prominent positions in public life, viz: Governor and United States Senator from his adopted State and later filled the Chair of the Secretary of War, and who was a Corresponding Member of this Society), was a monitor and tutor under Mr. Jenks. And our esteemed and venerable citizen, William Sayford, now of West State street, was a pupil of the school during its sessions in the Court House, and one of the first

scholars in the new building on Walnut street, and subsequently was the tutor of a class.

The limited accommodations which the room in the Court House afforded for such a large and increasing school, induced the County Commissioners to avail themselves of the privileges extended in the Act of Assembly to provide suitable buildings; and accordingly they purchased of Thomas Elder, Esq., the two lots of ground situated on Walnut street, for the purpose of erecting thereon a suitable building for the accommodation of the school.

On the 20th of June, 1828, Messrs. Moody, Brua and Cochran as Commissioners received proposals for the building which we now recall in memory. With commendable promptness, on the fourth of July, just two weeks after the reception of the proposals, the contract was closed with Samuel Bryan to build the house for the Lancasterian School for the sum of $4,250.00. Think of that for the building of a large brick house with cupola! In January, 1830, the last payment was made on the contract.

The Act of Assembly, approved the 9th of April, 1833, creating a Public School System under State auspices enabled the County Commissioners to dispense with the teacher, and on the 20th of May, 1834, a discontinuance was ordered. It was not until 1849, that the building and premises were sold by the County Commissioners to the School Directors of the North Ward of the Borough of Harrisburg, who made considerable alterations in its interior.

My memory of the incidents begins prior to 1838, and is fixed because of the holiday on account of the troops (called out during the Buckshot War) occupying the school house as barracks. Father William Mitchell occupied the upper floor of the building as a residence, and had access to his wood pile in the yard by a flight of great wooden steps from his quarters to the ground.

The lower floor was divided into three school rooms, with a wide hall between the school of Mr. Mitchell (which occupied the western portion of the floor) and the two other rooms, occupied by the higher grades of scholars. Mr. Mitchell taught the primary scholars. He was a tutor of the olden time, a retired Methodist missionary, with

a discipline strict and vigorous, and withal military, for the toes of the long classes of boys (in long check aprons and short roundabouts), when upon the floor in recitation were lined along a joint of the flooring boards, and there they were expected to remain during the period until the class time expired. The school opened with a couplet of song:

"How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour,
And gather honey all the day
From every opening flower,"

or

"The clock has struck, I cannot stay;
Oh, let me rise and haste away,"

with a short devotional exercise.

Then came a feature of the session and of every session, namely, the calling of the roll, which required the attention of every one in order to keep his record right. It was arranged in alphabetical order and John Adams responded, "present," James Benson responded "here;" Charles Clark, in anticipation of the time when his name would be called in the sessions of the Legislature, responded "aye."

The primary lessons in the three R's—Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic—comprised the curriculum. The pot hooks and straight lines, the rudiments of penmanship in the home-made copy books, consisting of foolscap paper, and the sheet cut in two, with a cover of newspaper serving to protect the efforts of the young writer with the goose quill pen, were a feature. Of course, the spelling class was important, and the trapping of the successful speller from the foot of the long row to the head was the ambition of the studious scholar. The multiplication table was mastered early by the majority of the boys when repeated in regular order, but sometimes when catechised on 7 times 9 or 9 times 7, there was a little confusion. When a little farther advanced, the tables of Dry Measure and Liquid Measure and succeeding tables came apace and the proud boy who could say promptly,

4 gills make 1 pint,
2 pints make 1 quart,
4 quarts make 1 gallon,
60 gallons make 1 hogshead,

or,

2 pints make 1 quart,
8 quarts make 1 peck,
4 pecks make 1 bushel,

or,

3 barley corns make 1 inch,
12 inches make 1 foot,
3 feet make 1 yard,
1,760 yards make 1 mile,
3 miles make 1 league,

was considered almost prepared for promotion, which was in most cases not desirable, for the majority cared not to face the ordeals that were gone through in the dark hall that separated the higher grade of schools from the primary. This dark hall was utilized by the teachers of the higher schools in the administration of the rod to dull and refractory scholars, who danced the highland fling and sang loud *misereres* at frequent intervals, and therefore the juveniles of Mr. Mitchell's school thought that promotion meant purgatory and punishment.

However, in the course of time, by reason of growth and advancement, the change had to be made, and a new course of study had to be entered upon, and the school in charge of the late Jacob Eyster included the first promotions on the roll. But the rapid advancement of all the youth of the ward forced the intermediate into the higher grade, which was only separated by an inch board, and soon the next step was made into the room of the late Samuel D. Ingram, who had charge of the seniors. We remember the monitors who passed around to the desks of the younger scholars with the question "any difficulty?", as we pored over the knotty mathematical problem, which was soon solved by their assistance. The late Rev. Dr. James Calder

was a favorite monitor with the boys—he was so kind, patient and indulgent. Dr. Charles Bombaugh was also an expert, and his copies for penmanship were models of neatness. Mr. Ingram was a disciplinarian, and any violation of the rules invariably brought the violator into the dark hall, where he received his merited reward with all the vigor with which an athletic left-handed man could wield the flexible three feet of well-seasoned rattan; and when the exercise was concluded the question, "Do you understand?" was generally answered in the affirmative, although it was sometimes difficult to stand at all or to sit, either. Elocution was a favorite study with Mr. Ingram, and his exercises from the works of Comstock were hard to comprehend, divided as the words were by bars and strange-looking spaces and marks; and he had the only book to read from. On Friday afternoons, at certain seasons, an excursion was made to Hare's woods, where the cemetery now is, when the lungs and oratorical powers of the scholars were tested in reading from Comstock's elocution. Friday afternoons and Saturday morning were devoted to chemical experiments and the electric jar and stool, with the human chain of electric current was demonstrated to the amusement and instruction of the pupils. The air pump also was there, and the marvels and mysteries of gravity, and of the vacuum were explained by the experiment of a feather falling as fast as a leaden bullet in the glass jar bereft of air. The rudiments of botany were also indulged in in season, and the constituents of plants and flowers were described to those whose fancy ran in that direction. The fruit trees of the neighborhood had more attraction for the great majority of students, and they were vigilantly watched from the blossom to the matured fruit, which was duly sampled in its various stages.

An event in the term of Mr. Ingram's service was his marriage to Miss Geiger, a very worthy helpmate, with whom he lived many years and who survived him by some time. The wedding occasioned a short holiday during the bridal tour, which was not abroad.

In the course of time, the advanced school of young ladies held in the brick school house on West Walnut street required the services of an experienced tutor, and our Mr. Ingram was assigned to the posi-

tion. Another intermediate grade of boys took possession of the room in which Mr. Ingram taught, and Charles A. Wyeth took charge of the advanced scholars, and occupied a room on the second story of the old building. The room was not large and the desks ran around the entire room, scholars facing the walls. Mr. Wyeth was also a disciplinarian and enforced the rules quite strenuously. Snow balling was a favorite recreation before school time and at recess, which recreation fitted the unmittened hands for a dreaded slap or two, administered with a heavy wooden ruler in case there was a tardiness in responding to the call of the bell for study. The sensation was of a sickening nature, to which any violent fever was but chilling in comparison. Neither was the thrilling shock momentary, for the intense heat in the numb hand and fingers could not soon be forgotten. The only comfort was that the first one taking the medicine had lost part of the taste thereof when the last of the tardy ones arrived for his dose.

The course continued with an advanced grade in mathematics, including mensuration and geometry. Among the teachers Mr. Ingram (as I have said) was particularly interested in reading and elocution, and considerable time was devoted to practice in those exercises. The memories of the boys were taxed in the committal of the selections, and pains were taken to train the embryo orators in the art and mysteries of gestures, emphasis, etc.

A half day at the end of the week was devoted to the practice, at which time the chosen selections were elocuted and sometimes electrocuted. The varied temperaments of the orators were exemplified in the delivery of their pieces, some of whom desired the ordeal to be passed as quickly as possible. The timid one, making his rapid bow to his fellow-scholars, and in a tremulous voice would recite, perhaps, the favorite "Hohenlinden":

"On Linden, when the sun was low,
All bloodless lay the untrodden snow,
And dark as winter was the flow
Of Iser, rolling rapidly.

By torch and trumpet fast arrayed,
Each horseman drew his battle blade,
And furious every charger neighed
To join the dreadful revelry.

The combat deepens—On, ye brave,
Who rush to glory—or—the grave!
Wave, Munich; all your banners wave!
And charge with all your chivalry!"

The next boy, perhaps a trifle more composed, would have the pathetic "Burial of Sir John Moore."

Not a drum was heard nor a funeral note
As our corse to the rampart we hurried;
Not a soldier discharged a farewell shot
O'er the grave where our hero we buried.

No useless coffin enclosed his breast,
Nor in sheet, nor in shroud we bound him;
But he lay like a warrior taking his rest,
With his martial cloak around him."

The next, in still more confidence, would bravely step to the front, and in a distinct tone would recite

"The boy stood on the burning deck,
Whence all but him had fled.
The flame that lit the battle wreck
Shone round him o'er the dead.

Then came a burst of thunder sound;
The boy—Oh, where was he?
Ask of the wind that far around
With fragments strewed the sea."

From its frequent repetition the old "Soliloquy of Alexander Selkirk or Robinson Crusoe," became known to all of the boys, and was good to fall back upon in an emergency. It was a standard recitation, and was carried from the primary into the then high school and was accepted as orthodox, but with a smile because of its repetition, and the delinquent generally had this ready:

"I am monarch of all I survey;
My rights there are none to dispute;
From the centre all round to the sea
I am lord of the fowl and the brute.
Oh, solitude, where are the charms
That sages have seen in thy face?
Better dwell in the midst of alarms
Than reign in this horrible place."

"Warren to the Troops at Bunker Hill" was a favorite, and a brave boy, catching the spirit of the General, would in a low voice say:

"Stand! the ground's your own, my braves;
Will ye give it up to slaves?
Will ye look for greener graves?
Hope for mercy still?

From the vale, on they come;
And will ye quail?
Leaden rain and iron hail
Let their welcome be."

Some of the senior scholars would recite more elaborate selections; for instance "Marco Bozarris," which runs:

"At mid-night, in his guarded tent,
The Turk was dreaming of the hour
When Greece, her knee in suppliance bent,
Should tremble at his power.

In dreams thro' camp and court he bore
The trophies of a conqueror;
In dreams his song of triumph heard,
Then wore his monarch's signet-ring.

An hour passed on, the Turk awoke,
That bright dream was his last.
He woke to hear the sentries shriek
'To arms! They come! The Greek! The Greek!'

He woke to die 'midst flame and smoke,
And shout and groan and sabre stroke,
And death shots falling thick and fast
As lightning from the mountain cloud,
And hear the voice, as trumpet loud,
Bozarris cheer his band.

'Strike! till the last armed foe expires;
Strike for your altars and your fires;
Strike for the green graves of your sires,
God and your native land.'

They fought like brave men, long and well;
They piled that ground with Moslem slain.
They conquered—but Bozarris fell
Bleeding at every vein."

The lovers of Shakespeare recited Mark Antony's address:

"Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears. I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. The evil that men do lives after them. The good is oft interred with their bones. So let it be with Caesar."

And so we recall the incidents and memories of the school-boy days. The walls of the old school building on Walnut street still stand, and there "the young ideas are still taught to shoot." But the boys of the olden time—where are they?

I have the roll of the late Mr. S. D. Ingram covering the names of fifty pupils of his school in 1844. I call John Q. Adams, Samuel A. Holman, George B. Ayres and William W. Wallace and they answer "here," from the city of Philadelphia. I call Charles C. Bombaugh, and I hear the answer "here" from the city of Baltimore. I call Philip A. Keller and Harris C. Fahnestock, and the answer "here" comes from the Greater New York City. I call Henry Fager and from our western neighbor State comes the answer "here." I can, within the sound of my natural voice receive an answer from our worthy President, Dr. Keller, his brother Christian K., and from our fellow-member, Albert J. Fager. And within the bounds of our city I can rally three more, leaving thirty-six of our comrades to be accounted for. We trace one of them to West Virginia and one to western New York, but we call in vain for thirty-four of our comrades.

They have answered their last call and they cannot respond to ours. In the battle of life they have fallen: some in defence of their country's flag—brave soldiers in the fight, and we accord them honor tonight and cherish their memory as schoolmates and heroes, who with all the others sleep peacefully upon the slopes with their forefathers.

With the surviving members of our class we sing:

"Don't you remember the school, Ben Bolt?
And the master so cruel and grim;
And the shady nook by the quiet brook
Where together we used to swim.
Grass grows on the master's grave, Ben Bolt,
And the spring of the brook is dry;
And of all the boys that were schoolmates then
There are left only you and I."

President Keller then introduced His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, who is President of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and an Honorary Member of this Society, who addressed the Society.

Address,

By the Hon. Samuel W. Pennypacker, LL. D.

The Governor apologized for not being prepared, in opening his speech, saying: "I have been very busy vetoing bills and signing some, as you will see by the newspapers." This remark caused a hearty laugh, but the Governor went on to tell of the delights of history. Among other things he told of his visit to the site of the fort, near Uniontown, where George Washington first underwent military experience, and regretted that the prosaic hand of the road builder had removed the stones which had marked the lines of the fortification in the famous Meadows."

He exhibited one of his manuscript treasures, a volume of the works of Pastorius, the Pilgrim of Whittier and the founder of Germantown, and read from it some of the quaint verse and word plays of that versatile pioneer.

Passing from that point, he said the history of Pennsylvania was filled with romance, citing the story of the heir of Anglesea, whose indentured labor on a Lancaster county farm and meeting with English officers at Philadelphia led to his restoration to his estates and title, and gave Smolett, Reade and Scott material for the writing of famous novels. Next the story of the recovery of Regina Hartmann, before the Revolution, and the tale of the early Dutch pioneer, Cornelius Plockhoy, whose settlement was dispersed and himself made a wanderer, were told in the Governor's interesting way.

Taking up the warfare of the Revolution, the Governor said that they had a few battles in Massachusetts and few about New York, a few in the Southland, but many more in and about Pennsylvania. He enumerated them, and said that Pennsylvania was foremost in national life and history, and has been since, citing the record of Jacob Brown, of Bucks county, the general of the War of 1812, and the march to the defence of Washington by 17,000 Pennsylvanians after the battle of Bull Run.

Refreshments, consisting of ice cream, strawberries, cake and coffee, were then served in the Grand Jury Room, nearby, after which the company dispersed.

Proceedings of the June Meeting, 1903.

June 11. President Keller in the Chair.

Members present: Armor, Beatty, H. J., Fager, A. J., Fry, Gorgas, W. L., Haldeman, Kelker, L. R., Keller, C. K., Kunkel, C. A., Lamberton, Montgomery, J., and Zollinger.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

A letter was received and filed from the Committee appointed by His Honor, Mayor Vance C. McCormick, to arrange for the celebration of the Fourth of July.

A letter was received from Miss Mira Lloyd Dock, advocating the affiliation of this Society with the National Societies which are engaged in the preservation of beautiful and historical places, and it was referred to the Executive Committee.

The following donations were received:

From F. B. Smith, Secretary, 1632 Riggs Place, Washington, D. C.:

Historical Paper of the Society of the Colonial Wars, No. 2, 1900; No. 3, 1901; No. 2, 1902; No. 3, 1903.

From the Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Robinson:

Sundry Pamphlets.

From Mrs. Peter K. Boyd:

Steel engraving of General Zachary Taylor (framed).

From Mr. Frederick H. Cowden:

"Notes Taken in Sixty Years," by Richard Smith Elliott.

Proclamation of Mayor A. L. Roumfort, dated August 15, 1865.

From the W. H. Boyd Co., Reading, Pa.:

Harrisburg Directory for 1903.

By mail:

Nos. 7 and 8, Vol. 7, Lancaster County Historical Society,

The resignation of the Librarian, Mr. William A. Kelker, was re-

ceived, and in accepting the same the following resolutions, offered by Mr. C. A. KUNKEL, were unanimously adopted:

'*Whereas,* Mr. WILLIAM A. KELKER, who has served as Librarian of this Society since 1895, has tendered his resignation, because he feels that he is unable through want of time to discharge the duties of the position in the manner in which he thinks they should be discharged:

Resolved, That the resignation of Mr. KELKER be accepted with sincere regret; and

Resolved, That the Historical Society of Dauphin County tenders to Mr. KELKER its sincere thanks for his very faithful services; and

Resolved, That the Corresponding Secretary, be instructed to inform Mr. KELKER of the action of the Society.'

The resignation of JOHN S. ALLEMAN, Esq., lately removed to Washington, D. C., was received and filed. As per section 4 of Article III of the By-Laws, he now becomes an Honorary Member.

The Executive Committee, through its Chairman, Mr. FRY, reported its action regarding the Thirty-Fourth Anniversary meeting, stating that the expenses were about $35; and on motion the report was accepted and the payment of the bill authorized.

Mr. LAMBERTON, Chairman of the Committee on Publication, made a verbal report, and asked that a specific sum be set aside for its use. On motion of Mr. L. R. KELKER, the sum of $250 was appropriated for the use of the Committee for publication purposes; and on his motion it was ordered that the papers *In Memoriam* of our three deceased Presidents be printed in the Transactions, and not in a separate pamphlet, as ordered at the April meeting.

The following were elected Resident Members, Messrs. HALDEMAN and A. J. FAGER acting as tellers:

Prof. Jacob Fridley Seiler, Ph.D., proposed by Messrs. J. P. KELLER and ARMOR.

John Stewart Weaver, proposed by Messrs. ZOLLINGER and W. A. KELKER.

Paul Augustine Kunkel, Esq., proposed by Messrs. W. A. KELKER and LAMBERTON.

William Thomas Hildrup, Jr., proposed by Messrs. LAMBERTON and W. A. KELKER.

Frederick Milnor Ott, Esq., proposed by Messrs. W. A. KELKER and LAMBERTON.

One name was proposed for Resident Membership and duly referred.

A motion, made by Mr. LAMBERTON, was adopted, that the Society recognizes with pleasure as an honor the selection by Governor PENNYPACKER of a member of this Society, Mr. LUTHER R. KELKER, as State Archivist; and congratulates Mr. KELKER upon his appointment.

Adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING, 1903.

September 10. President KELLER in the Chair.

Members present: ARMOR, BASHORE, COWDEN, EBY, M. C., FAGER, A. J., FAGER, DR. C. B., SR., FRY, HALDEMAN, KELKER, L. R., KLEIN, KREMER, KUNKEL, C. A., LAMBERTON, OTT, RUTHERFORD, SEILER, SNODGRASS, STINE, WIERMAN and YODER.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Mr. John S. Giddings, of Baltimore, Md., relative to the medal issued in commemoration of the capture of Major Andrè, which it was thought was intended for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Mr. FRY, Chairman of the Executive Committee, reported that the Committee had appointed Mr. J. HALDEMAN O'CONNOR as Librarian to serve until the next election, in place of Mr. W. A. KELKER, resigned; and that the Committee had acted upon the letter of Miss DOCK.

Mr. LAMBERTON, Chairman of the Committee on Publication, submitted the following report:

To the Historical Society of Dauphin County, Pa.:

The Committee on Publication respectfully report that they have almost completed an abstract of the Minutes of the Society since its

organization, which they intend to print immediately after the Charter, By-Laws, and Lists of Officers and Members, to be followed, in accordance with the instructions of the Society, by the memorials of our deceased Presidents. This matter, it is estimated, will cover in the neighborhood of 125 pages. The Committee have accepted the bid of the Star-Independent Company, that being the lowest, to print now 128 pages for the sum of $108, and at the rate of 80 cents per page additional, if additional matter is furnished at this time; and the Company agrees to print future transactions at a cost of 98 cents a page.

The preparation of this abstract of our proceedings will involve an outlay of about $50 for the services of the stenographer and typewriter. This is an extraordinary expense, and the Committee respectfully suggest that it is an expense proper to be borne by the Society, and not to be deducted from the appropriation of $250 made for the use of the Committee. The Committee wish instructions on this point.

The Committee suggest that the Treasurer be directed to keep the amount appropriated for the Committee on Publication, in a separate account, so that the Committee may know how much they have to expend.

The abstract of the Minutes will end with April, 1903, and it is intended to print our proceedings more in detail, beginning with May, 1903, the Thirty-Fourth Anniversary of the formation of the Society.

In view of this intention to publish more fully our proceedings, it is suggested that at the end of every meeting, the Recording Secretary be requested to read his rough minutes, so that as great accuracy as possible may be obtained.

The Committee suggest also that after the first part of the "Transactions" is printed, they be authorized to have a new title page inserted in the copies of the "Centenary Memorial of the Erection of the County of Dauphin and the Foundation of the City of Harrisburg," (of which the Society has over 300 copies) to be designated "Transactions of the Historical Society of Dauphin County, Pennsyl-

vania, Vol. II.," a copy to be given to each member. The Committee think that the members of the Society did so much in connection with the Centennial Celebration in September, 1885, that there is no impropriety in designating the Centenary Memorial as a part of the "Transactions" of this Society.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee.

JAMES M. LAMBERTON,
Chairman.

September 10, 1903.

The report was accepted, and the appropriation of $50, as requested for stenographer and typewriter, was made; and the Treasurer, as recommended in the report, was instructed to keep the Publication Fund separate.

It was also ordered that each member of the Society be given a copy of the Centenary Memorial Volume, when prepared as Vol. 2 of the Transactions of this Society.

The question of publishing in the Transactions all the papers which have been read before the Society in the past, was discussed by Messrs. LAMBERTON, KELKER, L. R., SNODGRASS, President KELLER, KREMER and KLEIN; but no action was taken, as the subject is governed by section 2, of Article IV, of the By-Laws.

Donations were received as follows:

From Miss Anna M. McClure, 226 North street, Harrisburg:

Communion tray of Old Hanover Church.

3 Large Tortoise Shell Combs.

3 Samplers made 1766, 1804, 1833, respectively; the latter by Mrs. Margaret B. Sturgeon, who married Robert McClure.

From Mr. Robert Bascom, Secretary:

Proceedings of New York State Historical Association, 1903.

From JAMES M. LAMBERTON, Esq.:

Continental Money.

From Mr. J. H. Hoffman, per Major W. C. ARMOR:

Copy of "Magna Charta."

By mail:

Bulletins of the Chester County, Pa., Historical Society, 1902-3.

Publication No. 9, Vol. 7, Lancaster County Historical Society, June 5, 1903.

Publication No. 5, Vol. 2, Lebanon County Historical Society, prepared by S. P. HEILMAN, M. D.

Publication No. 6, Vol. 2, Lebanon County Historical Society.

A letter was read from Mr. W. A. KELKER about the vast amount of labor expended on the Transactions of the Society by JAMES M. LAMBERTON, Esq., Chairman of the Committee on Publication; and a resolution of thanks was voted to Mr. LAMBERTON for his faithful services as Chairman of the Committee on Publication.

Alexander Carson Stamm, Esq., proposed by Messrs. LAMBERTON and ARMOR, was duly elected a Resident Member, Messrs. KLEIN and FAGER acting as tellers.

Vice-President KLEIN read from one of the Ingram Scrap Books a list of marriages by the Rev. Dr. W. R. DeWitt, and made in passing explanatory remarks thereon.

An order for $4.05 was granted in favor of Theodore F. Scheffer Estate for binding.

Mr. LAMBERTON submitted a recommendation of Mr. W. A. KELKER for sectional book cases, with their approximate cost, and moved that the purchase of these cases be referred to the Executive Committee with power to act, which was adopted.

Mr. HALDEMAN suggested the procuring of filing cases for filing papers on the unit basis; and the matter was referred, on his motion, to the Executive Committee, with power to act.

Adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE OCTOBER MEETING, 1903.

October 8. President KELLER in the Chair.

Members present: ALRICKS, L. B., ARMOR, BEATTY, H. J., EBY, M. C., FRY, FAGER, A. J., GILBERT, REV. DR. D. M., JONES, J. M., KLEIN, KREMER, MCDEVITT, PARTHEMORE, PEARSON, W., SCHEFFER, YODER, and ZOLLINGER.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

A note from the Corresponding Secretary was read as follows:

'Referring to the letter of Mr. John S. Giddings, of Baltimore, which was read at the last meeting and sent to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, the letter having been misdirected, asking for information with regard to the medal said to have been struck to commemorate the capture of Major John Andrè, in 1780, the Corresponding Secretary reports that Dr. John W. Jordan, Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, had written that an account of the medal would be found in Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution, Vol. 1, page 773.'

Mr. Fry, Chairman of the Executive Committee, reported that they had contracted for the sectional book cases, with a lock attachment, at a cost of $54.80, including $3.80 for a lock attachment. As to the means of providing for the security of our manuscripts and historical papers which are read from time to time, the Committee did not take any decided action.

The following report from the Committee on Publication was read:

To the Historical Society of Dauphin County, Pa.:

The Committee on Publication report that nearly 100 pages are now in type for the first part of Volume I of the Transactions of the Society.

Much further progress is delayed by two things: first, by the failure of the Committee to receive the manuscript of the address delivered April 9th last, by the Hon. Robert Snodgrass with regard to our third President, the late Hon. John W. Simonton: second, by the error in the date of the organization of the Society, as given on the seal of the Society.

The Committee do not think we should start out with a mis-statement on the title page of our Transactions. The date on the seal is May 10, 1869, while the minutes show beyond question that the *organization* took place upon *June* 10, 1869.

Your Committee respectfully recommend that the Corresponding Secretary be authorized and directed to have the seal altered to suit the fact, and then have a proper cut or cuts made, to be used as usual upon the notices and stationery of the Society.

The Committee think that a stenographer should be regularly employed to report the proceedings of the meetings, and to this end they have employed Mr. G. W. Culmerry to report the proceedings at the October meeting, so that, if the arrangement is approved by the Society, they may be able to come to an agreement with Mr. Culmerry which shall be fair to both parties.

Before the type of the Charter, By-Laws and List of Members is distributed, the Committee recommend that 50 copies be gotten, so that newly-elected members may be supplied, without taking from the copies ordered to make up our regular edition of 250 copies of the Transactions; the cost at this time will be very slight.

The thanks of the Society are due to Mrs. William H. Egle for the use of a steel plate of our late President Egle, and to the Harrisburg Publishing Company for the use of a cut of our late President Hamilton.

The Committee wish to obtain a copy of the programme of the Twenty Fifth Anniversary (1894), and of the Proceedings of the Centennial Celebration on July 4, 1876.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES M. LAMBERTON,

Oct. 8, 1903. *Chairman.*

The Rev. Dr. GILBERT, of the Committee on Publication, stated that the report shows that much further progress is delayed by the failure of the Committee to receive the manuscript of Mr. SNODGRASS's address, and, secondly, by the error in the date of the organization of the Society, as given on the seal.

He said: As can be seen from the printed call of May 19, 1869, there [indicating], that was simply a call issued to gentlemen who were interested in historical matters to come together and consider the matter of organizing a society; but the regular organization and the election of officers, etc., took place on June 10, 1869.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. KREMER, seconded by Mr. ARMOR, it was ordered that the seal should be corrected.

The propriety and importance of making an arrangement by which a stenographer should be regularly employed to report the proceed-

ings of the meeting were discussed by Messrs. PEARSON, GILBERT, D. M., KREMER and PARTHEMORE; and, on motion of Mr. PEARSON, the Committee on Publication was requested to report at the next meeting as to the cost of such an arrangement, as Mr. Culmerry could form an idea this evening of what the work would be.

On motion of Mr. ARMOR, seconded by Mr. SCHEFFER, the recommendation of the Committee that 50 copies of the Charter, By-Laws and List of Members be gotten before the type was distributed was approved.

On motion of Mr. PARTHEMORE, seconded by Mr. ARMOR, the thanks of the Society were extended to Mrs. William H. Egle for the use of the steel plate of our late President, Dr. WILLIAM H. EGLE; and to the Harrisburg Publishing Company for the use of the cut of our late President, Mr. A. BOYD HAMILTON.

The PRESIDENT requested any member of the Society having a copy of the programme of the Twenty Fifth Anniversary in 1894, and of the Proceedings of the Centennial Celebration in 1876, to furnish the same to the Committee; and on motion of Mr. PARTHEMORE, seconded by Mr. ARMOR, the report of the Committee as a whole was adopted.

Donations were received as follows:

From WILLIAM PEARSON, Esq.:

State Notes and "Shin Plasters."

From Mr. WARREN A. ZOLLINGER:

Photograph of Market Square, Harrisburg, Penn'a.

From JAMES M. LAMBERTON, Esq.:

Photographs (4), Interior of the present Room of the Society, taken by the donor.

By mail:

Proceedings of the Historical Society of York County, Pa., with Memoir of F. M. Melshiner,

Publication No. 7, Vol. 2, of the Lebanon County Historical Society,

Report of Proceedings of the "Wyoming Commemorative Association," July 3, 1903.

ROOM OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DAUPHIN COUNTY, 1903.

WEST END.

Mr. Parthemore: Mr. President, I merely want to put a test to what I said a while ago. There is in my mind, since we have a stenographer here, an historic incident. Many of you know of the Hanover Church, or the Manada Church, the old Presbyterian Church in the lower end of the county—the eastern end; in that grave-yard there is quite a row of tombstones, one bearing the name of General Harrison. Many years ago, we had a Superintendent of Public Schools in Dauphin County, and he got in a good humor in one of his annual reports, and published broadcast, through that report, that this General Harrison was the ancestor of William Henry Harrison, which, of course, wasn't correct. But this incident in connection with General Harrison is true: That he had a daughter, who married a Stewart—one of the Stewarts of Hanover. Years after their marriage he died; and she went west in a wagon, forded the streams, followed the bridle paths as best she could with her family. Her children grew up, and one of her daughters married Brice, who was the mother of Calvin Stewart Brice, whose name we all recognize as being some years ago Chairman of the Democratic National Committee at the time Cleveland ran for President. So we claim the distinction of having him, through several generations, a native of Dauphin County.

President Keller then read a paper which he had prepared for a Harrisburg newspaper, which was to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary.

Personal Recollections of Harrisburg Fifty Years Ago.

By Dr. John P. Keller.

Fifty years of time, when in prospective, seems a long while, indeed, but when viewed in the retrospect it seems almost impossible that its flight should have been so rapid; and yet, when one's mind is left to ponder on the separate events of a life of fifty years, they crowd in upon us so rapidly, and seem so many that we are left to wonder in amazement that so much could have occurred in so short a time.

The changes in the appearance of Harrisburg have been so great that, to one who had not seen it for fifty years, there would be but

little to recognize. In 1850, it was but a small borough of 7,834 inhabitants, which, according to the directory of the present year, has grown to a population of perhaps 75,000, and were it not for our present prescribed limits, we should, with our many suburbs, number possibly 90,000 or more.

Fifty years ago, the northern boundary of Harrisburg was North street, and it extended only from Front to Third street. "Capitol Hill" had a gradual slope across what is now North street to a swamp beyond. Through this swamp was a narrow, muddy lane running northwest from Third and North streets to "Hammond's Lane," or Herr street, as it is now called. "Hardscrabble" occupied its present place along the bank of the river from Herr street to the present terminus of Calder street, and with the exception of these miserable shanties there were no buildings above North street. There was one farm house on or near the present site of Messiah Lutheran Church, which was known as the "Forster Dairy Farm," and which was the first dairy in Harrisburg. Below North street, as far as South, between Second and Third streets, there was a low swamp caused by a stream of water, which flowed obliquely across the town, entering the river above Walnut street. A massive stone arch spanned the stream, also supported Front street at this point, and still remains, having been filled in and the bank extended to the river. There were no houses on State street between Second and Third, excepting the present Catholic Church and the three-story brick still standing on the southeast corner of Second street. A raised boardwalk occupied the lower side of State street from Second street to Third. The street, being wide, was frequently used for circuses during the summer (these were not five-ring circuses, however).

The eastern boundary was Paxton creek, though there were no buildings beyond the canal, excepting a row of frame stables on the lower side of Market street, owned by William Calder I, where his stage and canal horses were kept. Market street made an abrupt turn to the right at what is now Cameron street, merging into the Harrisburg and Reading Turnpike, at present known as Derry street. Chestnut street joined it at an acute angle on the right, and the Jones-

town road on the left. A ravine having a stream of water coursing down the centre, partially occupied the place of the present extension of Market street beyond. This ravine was an overgrown thicket, and was used by an old eccentric German by the name of Davy Schaffer, whose business was to convert dead horses and other animals into oil by the boiling process, thus dispelling the fragrance, which would otherwise have prevailed from the arbutus, May apple blossoms and wild roses, which grew along its borders. The Hill was owned by William Allison, whose name is still identified with it.

The eastern limit of the city is now Nineteenth street, with a closely built up district, and quite a large population beyond. I well remember, when a boy, of a public meeting in the old Court House, when Stephen Miller, one of the prominent and popular public speakers of that day, in a speech he was making, related a dream he had of the great future of Harrisburg, in which he thought our borough had become a great city, extending away out to Twenty-first street. As our streets then numbered only to Sixth street—now changed to Cowden, this seemed to his auditors so ridiculously extravagant that it created a hearty laugh and great applause; and yet to-day we see more than the realization of that dream. Whilst our city limits proper extend only to Nineteenth street, yet our streets are numbered to Thirtieth street. Would that the eloquent Stephen could be still alive to be a witness of the reality of his once prophetic dream!

On the south, the limit was Paxton street, which street still remains in appearance much as it was fifty years ago. The city now extends in this direction to Magnolia street, thus closely connecting the large suburb of Steelton with Harrisburg.

Gas was first introduced into Harrisburg, and the stores first lighted, January 13, 1851. Previous to this time our citizens used principally lard oil and candles in houses and stores, so that the introduction of gas was very acceptable indeed. This change from the old antiquated method of lighting proved a new epoch in our history, because it gave rise to the first radical change in the improvements to business and public places in particular. Up to this time our stores had no open fronts or windows for the display of goods, simply ordi-

nary windows in the front common to country stores, and at which there was usually a high desk where the books were kept and used. But a new feeling had now "come over the spirit of our dreams," and our merchants became imbued with new impulses; gradually large windows for the display of goods, and open fronts were introduced, and the stores brilliantly lighted.

The first attempt at open fronts was by Michael Keller, on Second street in the store room now occupied by J. J. Oglesby (No. 111). This, although but a much enlarged window, was considered a very fine improvement. The first full open front was made by Robert Shannon at No. 404 Market street. This had square stone columns with windows on each side of the door, which, although somewhat changed in appearance now by a lowering of the windows, still exists. It is occupied by A. Moyer as a shoe store. Some of our principal stores and offices were on Front street below Market: the general store of Josiah Elder and James Espy, the hardware store of Kelker & Bro., the office of Doctor W. W. Rutherford, the tin and stove store of George C. Fager, the general store of George Kunkel, the scrivener's office of Joseph Wallace, which was at the corner of Chestnut and Front streets, and others which I cannot now recall. Market Square and Second street also had a large share of business places, and it was not until the Harrisburg, Portsmouth, Mountjoy and Lancaster Railroad (now the Pennsylvania Railroad) was established, that Market street began to put on airs, and assume a real business appearance.

Gas was soon introduced into churches and all public places, and we felt that a new era had indeed dawned upon us. We had suddenly and almost miraculously been transformed from a country town into a city in appearance. Our dismal oil street lamps gave place to more brilliant gas lamps. The citizens no more carried tin lanterns pierced with holes, which radiated the light from one dim "penny dip" candle, as they groped their way through the darkness, and all rejoiced in the new order of things.

What would our ancestors say now could they see the present mode of electric lighting—2,000(?) candle power?

Harrisburg is often called slow, even by many of her own citizens, yet they forget that she has been in advance in many things. We were among the first, for instance, perhaps the very first, inland city in the State to adopt general electric lighting for our streets. They were lighted throughout before even Philadelphia adopted the electric system generally.

If we were not the first we were certainly among the very first cities in the State to adopt electricity as a motive power, as the first street railway on Cameron street will testify, and which was rapidly developed into the present extensive and magnificent system of street car conveniences which we now enjoy. There are other things in connection with our city in which we have been in the advance.

Let us not, therefore, speak disparagingly of the good old town inherited from our fathers, for they built well and substantially her foundations, even though conservatively. "It is a goodly heritage." Let us rather enter into the spirit of the day, and help push forward the present movement for further advancement, so that those of the present and future generations may be made to joy and rejoice in the still "Greater Harrisburg."

Mr. Parthemore said that Steve Miller was not the only prophet we had around here; and added:

I want to relate this prophecy. When the project of the Harrisburg, Mt. Joy, Portsmouth and Lancaster Railroad was begun, Simon Cameron, residing at Middletown, had taken a deep interest in it, and he represented this portion in order to raise subscriptions. Then he was sent into Elizabethtown, and in closing an address he said "Gentlemen, the day is coming when we shall be able to eat our breakfast in Harrisburg, take dinner in Philadelphia and return to Harrisburg for supper." An old man addressing him afterwards, said "Simon, you spoiled the whole thing; nobody believes that."

'I want to ask a question: Which is the most interesting to you—that is, more vivid to you—that you recollect best?

The PRESIDENT: I did hover around the circus, but I don't know that I got under the canvas at any time.

Mr. L. B. ALRICKS asked whether the Paxton creek in 1850 was the eastern boundary of Harrisburg, to which the PRESIDENT replied that he was not positive, but that the canal was formerly, because there were no houses beyond that; and possibly the line did run to Paxton creek.

Mr. A. J. FAGER said that there was one house out there, a double house, where Mr. Slasseman lived.

Mr. L. B. ALRICKS: One just beyond the canal, and I went that far to see the Indians when I was a boy. I wasn't allowed to go farther; and the other one was at the corner of Chestnut and Market streets, both owned by Mr. William Calder.

The Rev. Dr. GILBERT: Was 75,000 an accurate estimate?

The PRESIDENT: We would number very many more, if we could claim our suburbs; even beyond Nineteenth street there is a large population; and we are right up against Steelton.

Mr. PARTHEMORE: Mr. President, there is another matter I should like somebody to answer, and possibly you can; if not, the man who lived long enough to see the Indians, and went out to the canal for that purpose. There is an old cut in existence of the Zion Lutheran Church on Fourth street, in which appears a goat on the pavement. Whose goat was that?

Mr. L. B. ALRICKS: I think that goat belonged to the Odd Fellows' Society.

The Rev. Dr. KREMER: I was told that Harrisburg is famous for having given to the world the saying "sound on the goose question." When I was a student at Lancaster, one of our Professors related the following: At one time, a great many geese were running loose on the streets of Harrisburg, and littering up the pavement, as you know geese will do; and there was a decided opposition on the part of some to the privilege of allowing geese to run loose. Others demanded that the geese should have their freedom; and it led to a divi-

sion in the city which had assumed an importance that at the time became of a political nature. Councilmen were asked how they stood on the goose question. Now, there was a gentleman in Harrisburg who for years had been very anxious to get into the Town Council, and that year he went around to his neighbors and friends and would say "I'm sound on the goose question" to a man in favor of penning up the geese; and to a man who wished to give the geese their freedom, "I'm sound on the goose question;" and thus was given to the world an expression with which we are all familiar.

Mr. Parthemore: If the city is famous, so is the County, for in it originated the saying "The nigger's in the wood pile," and the tragic affair from which it originated occurred on March 3, 1768, at the house of George Frey, Middletown. On that evening Henry Cowan and a number of men were assembled in Frey's store, when a negro slave owned by Col. James Burd, of Tinian, James Derry by name, entered the room intoxicated and cried out "Strike me!" He was ordered out of the room, but, refusing to go, was pushed out by Cowan, who attempted to follow, but was prevented by George Bombaugh and Jacob Rohrer. Later, Cowan went in search of Derry, but not finding him, returned to the store-room. Soon after, some one opened the door, and cried, "The nigger's in the wood pile," whereupon Cowan went into the yard, and finding the negro, struck him with the butt end of a whip, when he turned upon Cowan and pursued him through the house, but Cowan hid himself.

The negro then ran up the main street of the town, crying "Where is he?" at the same time flourishing his knife and cursing Cowan and the others furiously.

After that, it seems that he was pursued a couple of miles until Colonel Burd's garden was reached, when, while he was stooping to pick up something to throw at his pursuers, Cowan came up, struck him, and pushed him against the house. Presently Cowan cried out, "I'm murdered," and then said to Colonel Burd, who came out of the house, "O, Colonel Burd, he has murdered me." Cowan was carried into Dr. Wooltz's, and died from his wounds two days later.

Tinian is located on the bluff of land below Highspire, and was for many years owned and occupied by the late Michael Ulrich.

Adjourned.

Proceedings of the November Meeting, 1903.

November 12. The Society was called to order at 7.55 P. M., President Keller in the Chair.

Members present: Armor, Bashore, Fry, Gorgas, W. L., Jones, J. M., Klein, Kremer, McCormick, H. B., Nead, B. M., Parthemore, Rutherford and Zollinger.

Regarding the reading of the Minutes of the last regular meeting, on motion of Mr. Parthemore, the Recording Secretary's minutes were read and approved, and the report of the stenographer was filed without reading.

The President: I would just say here that Dr. Schaeffer, Superintendent of Public Schools of the State, was around at my house last evening with Professor Fess, who is of the University of Chicago, and who has been lecturing here, and he seemed very anxious to come around and see us, and probably would give us a talk; I see he is not here now, but he may be in later.

The following report was read from the Committee on Publication, and, on motion of Mr. B. M. Nead, seconded by Mr. Zollinger: was approved:

To the Historical Society of Dauphin County:

The Committee on Publication report that they have issued Part 1 of Vol. I of the Transactions of the Society, consisting of 142 pages. They have also distributed to the Resident Members copies of the Dauphin County Memorial with the added title page, as directed, it being Vol. II, 1885-1903, of the Transactions.

The Committee request that fifteen copies of the Transactions be placed at their disposal for distribution to sister Historical Societies, Historical Magazines, etc.

With regard to the matter of having the proceedings of the meetings taken down stenographically, they report that Mr. Culmerry

charged $3.50 for his services at the last meeting, which should be paid. They have conferred with him, and he suggests that an arrangement be made for, say, six meetings, beginning with this, he to receive either $3.50 per meeting, or at the rate of 35 cents per page, written reports and papers not to be counted. Your Committee recommend that the latter plan be tried.

Respectfuly submitted.

JAMES M. LAMBERTON,

Nov. 12, 1903. *Chairman.*

The Rev. Dr. KREMER: I wish to present to the Society a little card of Indian relics taken out of my collection. They are interesting especially because they are very old. They were found below Steelton, in the field which is now covered by the works put up by The Pennsylvania Steel Company, by Anthony Harlacker and by him presented to me.

Mr. PARTHEMORE: Where those relics were found, we have for more than a century called the Hagey farm. The Hagey farm originally included everything from Highspire, the north side of Highspire, up to what we call the Francis bridge. The Hagey house is still standing, erected in 1797—that stone house to the left of the road going down; the barn that stood opposite, and which was torn down a few years ago to make room for the buildings of the Steel Company was erected by my grandfather, George Parthemore. In those days a carpenter was a barn builder, but a barn builder was a barn builder and he was not a carpenter. I was ferried across the river the other day down in that section, and the man who ferried me across stated that the island which is opposite the Hagey farm had been washed clean through by the flood of '89, and unearthed hundreds and hundreds of Indian implements, showing that possibly at one time it must have been quite a rendezvous for Indians. And right on top of the hill from the office building of the Bridge and Construction Department, there are three or four graves, and they are the burial places of the original Hageys, who settled there, and were Mennonites from Lancaster County. The Hageys of the second generation I knew very well.

In this connection there is an old adage in German, which I wish you all understood. It is that a man should not undress a man until he is dead.

The upper part of the old man's farm was divided, the upper part went to Henry Hagey; and the other part, which George Cumbler finally secured, his daughter, Mrs. Strickler, got. The old man Hagey had not died yet until the daughter lost hers and the daughter became heavily involved, proving the adage that a man should not dispose of his estate until his death.

The Rev. Dr. KREMER: I heard that in Bedford county in another way: "Don't take off your pants before you go to bed," applied in the same manner.

The following report was read:

To the Historical Society of Dauphin County:

The Corresponding Secretary reports that in accordance with the action taken at the last meeting of the Society, he had the seal of the Society corrected, the bill therefor being $2.00. He also had a new cut made at a cost of $7.35, and has procured fifty additional copies of the Charter, List of Members, etc., at a cost of $1.25, the bill for these items being enclosed and recommended to be paid.

As the supply of correspondence paper and envelopes is about exhausted, he asks that he be authorized to have an additional quantity printed from the new cut.

The enclosed letters from D. A. Johnson, from Centreville, Md., asking for information as to one Amos King, "a patriot of the American Revolution," and Mrs. E. D. Latta, from Charlotte, N. C., asking for information as to one John Poe, who died in Pennsylvania in 1756, and John Nesbitt, have been received. Can any member supply the desired data?

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES M. LAMBERTON,

Nov. 12, 1903. *Corresponding Secretary.*

On motion of Mr. KLEIN, seconded by Mr. ARMOR, the report was adopted, and the bills attached ordered paid.

Mr. B. M. NEAD: I am quite familiar with the Poe family, and I

don't know that they were connected back as far as that. That is undoubtedly a brother or a cousin of General James Poe; and General James Poe was the father of Adjutant Poe, of the War of 1812. His sister was my grandfather's second wife. James Poe's family are buried in Franklin county; and the Lancaster County family, I think, are buried near there. I never heard that legend connected with the family before to trace it back to that source. There is a branch of the family living in Maryland."

Mr. FRY, Chairman of the Executive Committee, reported that the sectional book cases had arrived since the last meeting and were in position in the room.

On motion of Mr. ARMOR, the letter of Mrs. Latta was also referred to Mr. NEAD.

Mr. Edward James Stackpole, proposed by Messrs. J. P. KELLER and ARMOR, was elected to Resident Membership, Messrs. PARTHEMORE and ZOLLINGER acting as tellers.

One nomination for Honorary Membership and three for Resident Membership were made and referred as usual.

Mr. PARTHEMORE: Mr. President, this morning in *The Patriot* appears this article:

"In response to the story in *The Patriot* of yesterday morning, telling of the fortune that awaits Michael Schweigert, or his heirs, in Buffalo, Assistant Secretary Klein, of the Department of Internal Affairs, yesterday received a letter from William A. Kelker. Kelker asserts that people named Schweigert have resided in the vicinity of Halifax for a number of years. The city directory also contains a dozen Schweigerts. Secretary Klein would be glad to receive a claim of relationship to the missing man."

I would state that almost from the earliest period this Schweigert name appears in the city directories. They settled in what is now Halifax township, possibly Powell's Valley or Armstrong Valley, and have continued to reside there. And there is in this town, and has been for a year or more, a very old gentleman who came from there. You have all seen him time and time again, and you didn't know who he was. He had been a lodger at the old Y. M. C. A.

building. I tried to find him to-day, but he had gone out of town for the day. He usually sits on one of the porches at the Commonwealth Hotel. He is the uncle of Isaac Schweigert, who for many years was the General Manager of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. Isaac Schweigert was a native of this county, hving been born near Matamoras. There were Schweigerts living in the vicinity of Highspire, when I was a boy. If Mr. Klein should travel around Dauphin County, probably he could find the person who is entitled to this fortune.

Dr. Bashore read the following paper:

Simon Girty.

By Harvey B. Bashore, M. D.

Some years ago, in company with several friends, I climbed the steep and rugged path leading to Girty's Notch, on the west bank of the Susquehanna river a little above Halifax—a lonely place it is, and, for a view, none that I know can surpass it; right over the channel of the river, which in Colonial times was the great highway in these parts, it was certainly a commanding point of observation for one, who, like Girty, loved his neighbors none too well; but the great difficulty about the romance or history, if you like, of Girty's Notch is that, though named for Simon Girty, he really never lived here and possibly never saw the place. I often tried to get Dr. Egle to acknowledge that Girty might have had a retreat here, but he never would. Since then I have searched all available records, and nowhere is there the least evidence to warrant the supposition that Girty ever was in Perry County, except when as a boy his father "squatted" in Sherman's Valley. Still Girty, though one of the blackest characters of Revolutionary days, is interesting to us, for he was a son of Dauphin County and the only Dauphin Countian who had a book written of his deeds, and the only one, I believe, who deserted the cause of '76. Born, as we all know, at Chambers's Mill in 1741, his early life was spent there, except for the short time that his family lived in

Sherman's Valley. Chambers's Mill, now known as Fort Hunter, peaceful, quiet and orderly, was then the most disreputable place along the river. It was the frontier of the Colonial world, and just as in our own day frontier life is made up of gambling and drunken brawls, so then it was at Chambers's Mill, and in one of these disturbances "old" Girty, as he was called—the father of our subject—was killed by an Indian named "The Fish," and "The Fish" was promptly killed by a friend of Girty's named Turner, who then married Mrs. Girty, and so became Simon's step-father.

When Simon was fifteen years of age, he, with others, was captured by the Indians at the fall of Fort Granville, and was adopted by the Senecas and lived with them for three years. At the end of that time, he was delivered up in a general exchange at Pittsburgh, or Fort Pitt, as it was then called, and hereafter the West became his stamping ground.

His first point of activity was with Dunmore in his Indian war, and during this period he did one deed for which he deserves the thanks of humanity. At the great peace conference following this war, it was Girty who translated the famous speech of the Mingo chief, Logan, which Colonel Gibson then and there wrote down as we now have it. No better deed could any man do than put before the world this pathetic appeal of an injured and dying race. After the Dunmore war, Girty continued to live around Fort Pitt and took part, more or less, in the various border troubles of that time.

In 1777, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Continental Army, but in March, 1778, in company with McKee and Eliot, two other border ruffians, he deserted, and started for the British post at Detroit—a traitor to his country. After his arrival at Detroit, he was employed as interpreter by the British Indian Department, and was continually on the move between Detroit and the Ohio Indians, notably the Wyandots, who seem to have accepted him as a kind of chief.

He took part in many forages and massacres, especially at the siege of Fort Laurens, at Ruddle's Station, at Bryan's Station, and in the battle of Blue Licks; his name became hated and detested

everywhere by the western border men, especially after the burning of Colonel Crawford, a faithful report of which was afterwards circulated by Dr. Knight, himself a captive and subjected to the insults of Girty.

The one spark of humanity still left in this man or monster seemed to blaze forth when he rescued Simon Kenton from the stake, but this would hardly atone for the many that suffered under his eyes.

After the Revolution, he married and settled down in Canada near Detroit; later, he took part in the attack on Dunlop's Station, on the Miami; he was at St. Clair's defeat and was present at the battle of Fallen Timbers, on the Maumee, when the Indians received a crushing defeat at the hands of "Mad" Anthony. This, too, was Girty's last battle. He returned to his home—and died February 18, 1816, a blind and decrepit old man. British soldiers fired a salute over his grave, and he deserved it, for he had kept faith with them.

In his day and generation, Girty was the most hated of men by the Americans, and it is likely he justly deserved it. I used to think that there might be some palliation for his character, owing to his Indian captivity, but that was so short that it could have made little impression on the right kind of boy; he was simply a traitor, for whom no excuse can be offered, and became conspicuous by virtue of his savage and debased nature.

That one of white birth could look unmoved on torture such as Colonel Crawford bore, is necessary for him to have been a moral degenerate of the worst type. It is not likely that he ever suffered the pangs of remorse such as is supposed to have afflicted Benedict Arnold in his last days; he was too low even for that.

We can only regret that one so notorious for his wickedness was ever born and bred in this fair valley of ours. Although he deserted our ancestors in time of need, we can still be merciful and have pity, for in spite of traitors and renegades, in spite of greed for gold and moral weakness, the great cause of '76 won, and human freedom became a real fact.

Mr. Klein read the following paper:

The Improvement of the Susquehanna River.

By the Hon. Theodore B. Klein.

The revival of the project to improve the Susquehanna river; so as to render it navigable to the Capitol City by the action of our fellow-member, Congressman Olmsted, and the endorsement of the Board of Trade of the City of Harrisburg, may be supplemented by proceedings of the State Government, as found among the records on file in the Department of Internal Affairs, and will be found interesting in this connection.

Thomas Mifflin, the President of the Constitutional Convention of 1790, was elected the first Governor under that instrument and was an ardent advocate of a system of internal improvements in order to develop the resources of the Commonwealth. An Act was passed in March, 1771, declaring the river Susquehanna and other streams public highways, for improving the navigation of the said river, etc. Commissioners (13) were appointed for clearing and making the river navigable. In 1785, the thirteen Commissioners were superseded, and the President of the Supreme Executive Council was authorized and empowered by an Act of Council to nominate and commission twenty persons of knowledge and activity, residing within twenty miles of the said river, to perform the duties required in the Act of 1771.

By a subsequent Act between the Act of 1785 and the action of the Governor, viz., on the third day of July, 1792, he was authorized to enter into a contract with certain party or parties to perform the requirements of the Act providing for the improvement of the river—appropriation for which was made April 13, 1791. Here is the original contract, signed by very prominent citizens who formed the company which obligated itself to construct the canal around Conewago Falls on the York County side. This company was incorporated in April, 1793, by the name of the Conewago Canal Company. This canal is now partly used by the Paper Company at York Haven, but the locks are not visible at this time—they are referred to in the re-

port of Mr. John Hall, which I have here, recounting the inauguration of the work on the fifth of December, 1797.

From the endorsement upon the original contract we find that in 1804, February first, this contract was not then completed, from which we judge that the appropriation was exhausted.

The peculiar feature of this contract is that the contractors, their heirs and assigns were obligated to maintain and operate this canal forever at their own proper cost and expense, without any authority to collect any toll by which revenue could be raised for its maintenance. The contractors were very prominent men, and it may be that their own personal matters and business was to be enhanced and accommodated by the use of this canal, for which the State contributed the consideration named in the contract for its construction. Mr. Hall in his report comments somewhat upon the contract, as will be seen.

Mr. Klein then showed the original contract and the report of Mr. Hall, of which the following are copies:

"ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT made and entered into this third day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, Between Thomas Mifflin, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, of the one part, and Robert Morris, William Smith (D. D.), Walter Stewart, Samuel Meredith, John Steinmetz, Tench Francis, John Nicholson, John Donaldson, Samuel Miles, Timothy Matlack, David Rittenhouse, Samuel Powell Alexander, James Dallas, William Bingham, Henry Miller, Abraham Whitmer and Robert Harris, Practitioner of Physick, all of the State of Pennsylvania, Esquires, of the other part.

WHEREAS the General Assembly of this Commonwealth did in and by an act entitled "An Act to provide for the opening and improving sundry navigable waters and roads within this Commonwealth," authorise and empower the Governor to contract with individuals or with companies among other things, for improving the navigation of the river Susquehanna from Wright's Ferry to the mouth of Swatara Creek inclusive, and for that purpose appropriated the sum of Five thousand two hundred and fifty pounds. AND

WHEREAS the said Robert Morris [*et al*] have formed themselves into a company, and made proposals for opening and improving the navigation of the said river Susquehanna agreeably to the true intent, meaning and design of the Legislature, which proposals the said Thomas Mifflin deems it for the interest of the Commonwealth to accept NOW THESE ARTICLES WITNESS that for the consideration hereinafter mentioned they the said Robert Morris [*et al.*] jointly and severally have and each of them Hath agreed undertaken and contracted and by these presents Do and each of them Doth agree undertake and contract to and with the said Thomas Mifflin and his successors Governors of the said Commonwealth that they will well and truly open and improve the navigation of the said river Susquehanna between Wright's Ferry and the mouth of the Swatara aforesaid in manner following; that is to say that at the Conewago Falls they will cut, establish and maintain a Canal of a sufficient and convenient width not less than forty feet; of a length sufficient to pass and extend beyond all the obstructions created in the navigation of the said River by means of the said Conewago falls; and of a depth sufficient at all times to contain and convey throughout the whole distance of the said Canal a body of water of at least four feet deep; that they will also erect and maintain on the said Canal a sufficient number of safe and commodious locks not less than two for the benefit of the navigation; that the said Canal and Locks, and all the works thereunto belonging shall be forever kept and maintained in good and perfect order and repair by the said Contractors their Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns at the proper costs and charge of them and every of them; that the said Canal and Locks shall be begun with all convenient dispatch, and that the same shall be finished and in all respects complete and ready for the purposes of navigation on or before the first day of January, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, and that the same shall be then opened as a public highway, and as such for public use be forever after kept open, so that all persons whosoever with boats, rafts and other suitable vessels and their freights may thenceforth at all seasons when the navigation of the said river Susquehanna is not

rendered impracticable by ice pass and repass on the said Canal and use and enjoy the benefit of the said Locks free of toll, and any and every other charge whatsoever as freely as if the said Canal and Locks were made and established by the Public and duly declared by Law to be a public highway; AND FURTHER, that they the said Robert Morris [*et al.*], shall and will on or before the said first day of January, in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, make and establish a safe and convenient passage and remove the natural obstructions at Chickis's Falls, and Haldiman's Ripples, so as to admit the passage of boats drawing two feet water at the mean low water mark in the summer season, such mark to be ascertained and fixed by Commissioners or Agents to be appointed by the Governor. And also that they shall and will clear a convenient passage through the Swatara Ripples on the East side of the River upon the same plan and with the same safety for the passage of boats as at Haldiman's and Chickis's Falls. AND the said Robert Morris [*et al.*] each one for himself, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators and each for the rest and their respective Heirs, Executors and Administrators covenant, promise and agree to and with the said Thomas Mifflin and his successors, Governors of the said Commonwealth, that they and each of them will well and truly do perform and execute all and singular the undertakings and contracts by them hereinbefore made and entered into. AND the said Thomas Mifflin, in behalf of the said Commonwealth, in consideration of the undertakings and contracts hereinbefore specified, covenants, promises and agrees to and with the said Robert Morris [*et al.*], and every one of them, that they shall have and receive the sum of Five thousand two hundred and fifty pounds, to be paid as the same may from time to time be necessary for prosecuting the improvements aforesaid, and to be deemed and taken as full satisfaction and compensation for all the services and expences of the said Robert Morris [*et al.*], and every of them, in executing this contract. IN WITNESS whereof the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Sealed and Delivered in the presence of Us.
Geo. Steinmetz, to the signing of all the parties.
Geo. Booth to the Governor's signing.

Tho. Mifflin(s),
Walter Stewart(s),
Wm. Bingham(s),
Saml. Miles(s),
Ty. Matlack(s),
Davd. Rittenhouse(s),
Samuel Powel(s),
A. J. Dallas (s),

Tench Francis(s),
Rob Harris(s),
Robt. Morris(s),
William Smith(s),
Jno. Nicholson(s),
John Donnaldson(s),
John Steinmetz(s),
Abraham Witmer(s).

December 5th, 1797.

Report to the Governor by John Hall, Esqr., late Agent of Information, on the Completion of the Conewago Canal.

Sir:—Having been specially appointed by your Excellency to view, and make report upon, the execution of the Contract made July 3d, 1792, between the Commonwealth and the Conewago Canal Company, viz: Robert Morris, William Smith, D.D., and others, and as upon the invitation of the Company, with a laudable public Spirit in order to countenance and encourage a work of such utility, as well as to enable you the better in your executive capacity to do justice to the Commonwealth as well as to the Contractors, you were pleased at a very inclement season to attend at the opening of this Grand Canal, my report on the subject may be the shorter—consisting only of a state of facts which falls within your own knowledge.

After having left you on the afternoon of Tuesday the 21st Ulto. I arrived at the Canal, in company with the Revd. Dr. Smith, who attended as a Committee of the Company, Mr. Thomas Leiper and some other Gentlemen. About sun-set the same Evening we crossed the river, and passed the Evening with Mr. James Brindley, the Engineer and superintendant of the works, in order to consult and prepare for the operations of the succeeding day.

Wednesday 22d finding the Canal considerably obstructed with Ice

we embarked at the Head of the lower Locks about 10 o'clock with a number of the Canal workmen, under the direction of Mr. Brindley, in two large Flats belonging to the Ferry, and proceeded up the Canal to the regulating Lock and Gates, breaking the Ice in our way. The Gates being then opened we ascended the regulating Lock, and passed to the Head in the Susquehanna, above the Falls, where one of the Middletown river Boats, which they called a nine Ton Boat, lay prepared to descend, and on our signal, immediately passed out of the river into the Bason at the head of the regulating Lock, where our two large Flats lay to receive her. This small fleet then passed the regulating Lock and down the Canal, keeping as much abreast of each other as possible, and breaking the ice into very small cakes in our way. Having reached the lower Locks, we passed the same one after another, and entered the river below the Falls, at about half an hour after 11 o'clock, when it was perceived that you and your attendants were waiting at the Ferry on the Lancaster side, amidst snow and sleet of the day. One of the Ferry Boats doubly manned pushed across the river to receive you, but the Middletown river Boat, with her four Oarsmen, being emulous of that service, pushed across the river, got first to the Landing, and in the space of about 18 or 20 Minutes, returned and entered the Canal at the bottom of the lower Lock.

The grand operation of ascending the Locks now commenced. Your Excellency, declining to land, or lose time, Mr. Brindley went on shore, and with two of his best men, took the command of the Locks. While the first Lock was filling, every person who could conveniently, to the number of about 55, got into the Middletown Boat, with your Excellency, and were astonished to find themselves raised nine feet perpendicular (viz. to the level of the 2d Lock) in the space of 8 Minutes, scarcely conjecturing whence the water came, the gates above them being still shut. Having entered the 2d Lock it was filled and passed in 4 Minutes and a half, which would have been the case in the 1st Lock if the unbroken Ice at its upper Gate had not retarded. Having now ascended both Locks, the Boat with her 55 Passengers, with five setting poles, pushed up thro' the Canal thro'

ROOM OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DAUPHIN COUNTY, 1903.

EAST END.

the broken and floating Ice to the regulating Lock in 17 Minutes, then thro' the same in 3 Minutes, and to the head of the Cutting and upper Entrance of the river above the Falls in 5 Minutes more, in all thirty-seven minutes and a half.

The descent in the same boat, with the same or rather a greater number of passengers, thro' the regulating and down to the double Locks, was only 17 Minutes. Here you and others in your Company landed, but there being near five hundred persons present (and if the weather had permitted there would probably have been some thousands) Mr. Brindley indulged as many as desired, by opening the lower locks, passing and repassing them several times in the several Boats.

The Governor need not be reminded here of a circumstance which did credit to the workmen, who have been so long employed in subduing the rocks in the Scite and Bed of the Canal, namely that having no Artillery of Brass or Iron, they bored their artillery out of the hardest Rocks in the space of about 3 Hours in the morning, and gave the Governor a Federal salute at his entrance into the Lower Lock, and another ascending and descending the Body of the Canal, and that in regular succession of discharges, with a report so loud as to be rev[illegible]rated from the fellow Rocks on both shores of the Susquehanna, trembling as it were for their own safety.

What is now most material to be added in this report is the situation of the Canal & execution of the work, to enable you to pronounce safe[illegible]y concerning the Completion of the Contract.

1. It is one mile in length, wanting a few perches.

2. It is everywhere 40 feet in width at bottom, and 4 feet deep, in some places more, when filled only within 20 inches of the top of its Ba[illegible]s or towing Path; all which is compleatly agreeable to the Contract

3. The Locks are indeed a grand work, constructed in the most masterly manner, of the most solid materials, Brick and Hewn Stone. The two Locks at the lower end are 80 feet each in length and 12 feet in breadth or width, & in the lowest state of the river 3 feet 6 inches in depth, over the main Sills of each Lock Gate.

To say that these Locks amount to the Terms of the Contract would be to say little. Their Nature, Construction, &c., being new in this Country, could not have been contemplated or understood by the Commonwealth, or the Company at the time of the Contract, for I am instructed to say, and the Company in an address now preparing, mean to demonstrate to you, and submit their case to the Legislature, that the two lower Locks, the regulating Lock, the Wing Walls and Barriers at the Head of the Canal, which are all for the public use, exceed to an immense degree in expence, the whole sum estimated and contracted for by the Commonwealth exclusive of the purchase of the Ground and digging the Canal a mile nearly in length, 40 feet wide and four feet deep, thro' the most difficult ground within the State.

Add to this that the said Locks are to be "maintained at the expence of the Company, and kept open as a highway for public use, &c." By keeping open can only be intended the liberty of Passing, for Locks always open would be of no use in navigation; they must be opened and shut at every passage of a Boat and that by a skillful person, master of the Key of the Locks, to prevent their being damaged or trespassed upon; and from the foregoing statement, as it appears that the regulating Lock is near a mile above the Lower Locks and that such person cannot reside at both ends of the Canal at the same time, it will at least require one hour and 14 minutes of his labor and attendance for every Boat that passes, and that he must be always ready, and can scarcely pursue any other business—yet no provision is made in the Contract to compensate such person for his assisting the Boatmen, nor are the Company by the Contract bound to provide or maintain such person, but only to keep the Locks open, or in other words *useless.*

You will judge of the equity of this case, from the face of the Contract, and altho' the Company should be allowed no toll, to compensate for the extraordinary expence of those Locks, beyond the public appropriation, and the future expence of maintaining and supporting them, yet it would be a hard case to require of them an additional annual salary to the Keeper of the Locks, without at least as

much Toll from those who are to be benefitted by the services of the Keeper as will compensate his labor, and without whose assistance they could neither pass nor repass.

Besides the sum of 5,000 pounds for the Canal and Locks, I find by the Contract 250 pounds appropriated for Chickis Falls, Haldiman's Ripples and Swatara Ripples, and it appears by the estimate of Samuel Boyd, Bertram Galbraith and Thomas Huling, the Commissioners, upon whose report the appropriation of the Legislature was made, that Chickis Falls should be 150 pounds, Haldiman's Rippels 100 pounds, Swatara Ripples 50 pounds, that is, 300 pounds in the whole. How the difference of 50 pounds less in the contract, than in the estimate arises, does not appear to me, and whether this small part of the Contract be sufficiently compleated or not, could not be ascertained at the time of my estimation of the Conewago Canal, because the waters of the Susquehanna were some feet higher than low water mark, and the contract specifies that the low water mark is to be ascertained and fixed by Commissioners or Agents appointed by your Excellency, which remains to be done before this part of the Contract can be reported upon. It appears to me that you may safely discharge the Company of their Bond & Obligations, so far as concerns the 5,000 pounds for the Conewago Canal.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your Excellency's

Most obt. Servant,

JNO. HALL.

His Excellency, 5 Decr. 1797.

Governor Mifflin.

Mr. B. M. Nead: I think this is an exceedingly interesting paper, and quite an important one. It is a sort of connecting link between the original plan which the government had of opening the navigation of the Susquehanna river and the subsequent ones. The reason, in my judgment for the discontinuing of the plan, which is spoken of and which was heartily inaugurated, lies in the fact that, at that period

there came upon many of the gentlemen named a very distressing condition of affairs.

You know that Robert Morris and Tench Francis and John Donaldson and John Nicholson were all men who were prominetly connected with the affairs of the government; and you may remember that Robert Morris was in debt—the financing of the Revolution exhausting all his personal funds. John Donaldson was the Registrar-General of the old Provincial Government, just before the government of 1790. John Nicholson was the Comptroller General and Tench Francis was Muster Master General; they were, as were other signers of this paper, men connected with the government. Born of the hopes which followed the war, there came an ambition on the part of these men to advance themselves along the line of speculation. This spirit took hold of many people, and, a little later on, led them, together with the government, into that terrible condition of affairs which two or three decades later resulted in a situation which laid us open to the condemnation of foreigners, particularly Sydney Smith, through whose unjust criticism the term "Pennsylvania Bond" became a synonym, in England for the repudiation of just indebtedness.

John Nicholson and John Donaldson were interested in various other enterprises at that time, Nicholson, particularly. Among these were the "American Population Company" and various land schemes. Some of these resulted disastrously and led Nicholson into trouble. The State seized his land, and his books and papers were taken to the seat of government, where investigation and inquiries covering a long period of time were conducted. An examination of the old documents relating to Nicholson's affairs is full of interest.

Then came later efforts for the attempted improvements of the navigation of the Susquehanna River, all of which were impracticable, to a large extent—away ahead of the times.

There was the State Lottery through which a determined effort was made to raise funds for the river improvement; there were many other plans, but I cannot take up your time by referring to them.

The whole story of the attempted improvement of the navigation of the Susquehanna River, is exceedingly interesting, and it ought to

have a more important page, than it does, in the history of the State.

President KELLER: It is with great pleasure that I say we have with us this evening Professor Fess, of the University of Chicago. I believe the Professor has been lecturing in our city recently for the Teachers' Institute. He is greatly interested in historical matters, and we are pleased to have him with us this evening. Perhaps he might have something to say to us.

Professor S. D. Fess: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I want, at least, to be graceful enough to thank you for the invitation to come here; and I have gotten what I came for. I wanted to know about what was the character of your work; and, as you have said, I am interested in looking up the sources of our history; and I think there is no movement in the country that is so commendable as that to establish these Historical Societies in each county to preserve these valuable documents.

I presume that you are aware that that document that has just been read is a very valuable one, and would command a great amount of money by the universities. I suppose that there are a good many documents of that sort scattered around, if you could only find them; but that document, with the signatures of Governor Mifflin and Robert Morris and Alexander Dallas and David Rittenhouse—those four men especially—any documents with their names upon them—would be of great value to the history of the country outside of Pennsylvania.

I wanted to know whether you just gathered in relics or whether you were also accumulating documents. That is the field I am interested in.

Over near Wellsboro last week, I found an old gentleman, who was a Justice of the Peace, who has a complete file of the New York *Tribune*. He couldn't under any circumstances be induced to sell it. I told him by all means he ought to have that deposited some place with a Historical Society for permanent use, because it will all go to pieces some day; and that would be an unusually valuable source of history.

I happened to speak in this city on Abraham Lincoln the other

night, and I had an invitation to go to a certain house on South Fourth street, 21, where I was shown a cane that has a representation of the Emancipation Proclamation. It was presented by Mrs. Lincoln, ten days after Mr. Lincoln was shot, to the Lieutenant of his body guard, by the name of Jameson. This lady who has possession of it is the daughter-in-law of Captain Jameson; and the tablet is set in the cane; so that there can be, I suppose, nothing bogus about it. Also, she has an autograph letter of President Lincoln; also two letters of Robert T. Lincoln. She claims to have, in fact she showed me a coat which she claims President Lincoln wore when he was inaugurated; that could be easily a forgery. I don't know how that can be established; but if it is true, it would be very valuable for Illinois or any State.

I find quite a good lot of valuable documents that are likely to be destroyed.

Over at Reading, I found where an old gentleman had torn from an old Colonial Journal a leaf to be used for shaving purpose.

And the Journals of the Assembly—I think there are four volumes—they would command almost any price; they are the original sources; and the minutes of your conventions.

President Jackson was nominated in 1824 in this city. There must be a record of that somewhere. He was nominated the first time by a body of Federalists, and became the great saint of the Democratic party; and the following week after that, the Democratic party nominated him also, and then, a few days after that, the regular Democratic Convention nominated him. If there are any documents of that kind here about Harrisburg, they would be unusually valuable, and ought to be deposited together somewhere.

I asked the clerk of the Commonwealth Hotel whether he had the register, containing the name of Lincoln, used when he passed through here in 1860 on his way to Washington, and he didn't seem to think that there was any interest attached to that. I said, "I will be glad to pay you, and pay you well if you would let me have it."

I am anxious that these sources that will soon be destroyed from the lapse of time shall be put into permanent form.

Gentlemen, I only wish I had the privilege of being a citizen with you, and could enjoy gathering the documents and investigating them, like the gentlemen this evening.

I am very much interested in these documents. Over in the University of Pennsylvania, two weeks ago, I was permitted by the kindness of the librarian of the library, together with the President of the Free Library of Philadelphia, together with Dr. Harris, to look over unpublished documents of Benjamin Franklin, that Dr. Weir Mitchell had discovered and paid a good price for; and we were interested in getting a date of a certain one that someone claimed was 1732; but I couldn't see anything on the face of it to determine its date.

I trust you will excuse me for taking up so much of your time.

I hope that you will recognize that there is a great need of gathering your local history, especially the documents that are going to waste, and I am very glad for the privilege of being here and seeing that document just read; for it, as this gentleman has said, is an unusually interesting local piece of history.

If you will just pardon me, I might say to you that from the standpoint of general history in the United States the navigation of this river, in 1784, to which the document refers, was called to the attention of a meeting at Mt. Vernon by Washington himself, when he saw that the western part of North Carolina, (that is now called the State of Tennessee,) was shut away by the mountain ranges from the Atlantic Coast, and the Eastern people had gone across the mountain; they couldn't use the Mississippi river because Spain owned it and closed it, and required a certain tribute to be paid, and it was so high they couldn't afford it, and then they appealed to Congress without effect. Jay was sent to make a treaty and failed; and a convention was afterwards called and nominated John Sevier, and elected him Governor, and elected a Legislature and proceeded on an independent basis—and Washington saw the danger of it and immediately called a meeting at Mt. Vernon; his plan was to connect the waters of the Ohio with those which empty into the Chesapeake, so that the people in Western North Carolina could come up the river through the canal into the Susquehanna and then construct canals; and that,

you see, led to the Constitutional Convention. The first meeting was at Mt. Vernon.

That question is a very interesting one, you see, from the standpoint of general history.

This place is a teeming one for me; and I thank you.

Donations were received as follows:

From Mr. A. P. Hepburn, care The Chase National Bank, New York City, by hands of the Macmillan Co., N. Y. City.:

History of Coinage and Currency in the United States, by the donor.

From Mrs. Gilbert M. McCauley:

Sundry Newspapers.

From the Rev. Ellis N. Kremer, D.D.:

Cardboard of Arrowheads found near Steelton, Penn'a.

Mrs. Eliza B. Hummel presented to the Society, through Major Armor, a copy of the *Pennsylvania German,* in which is contained a sketch of the life of Rev. John Conrad Bucher, written by the Rev. A. Stapleton, with Mrs. Hummel's expressed desire that this be put with the Bucher collection of papers.

On motion of Mr. B. M. Nead it was ordered that on the night of our meeting the various cases should be opened, or that the keys, at least, should be at the room.

An invitation was received from the Dauphin County Bar Association, inviting the members of the Society to be present at the unveiling of the portraits of the late Judges Pearson and Simonton, on Monday, November 23, and, on motion of Mr. Parthemore, the invitation was accepted.

Adjourned at 9.25.

Proceedings of the December Meeting, 1903.

December 10. The Society was called to order at 7.45 P. M.; President Keller in the Chair.

Members present: Armor, Beatty, H. J., Cowden, Eby, M. C., Fager, A. J., Fry, Gilbert, Rev. Dr. D. M., Gorgas, W. L., Haldeman, Kelker, L. R., Klein, Lamberton, Montgomery, J., Mc-

DEVITT, MCGINNES, NEAD, B. F., NEAD, B. M., PEARSON, W., RUTHERFORD, REYNDERS and ZOLLINGER.

Mr. John F. Kerper was a visitor.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. REYNDERS, a newly-elected member present for the first time, was introduced.

The Corresponding Secretary reported that he had a fresh supply of paper and envelopes prepared; that he had present the three cuts of the old seal, which ought to be destroyed, and one of the new or corrected seal, a second cut being kept by him for the purpose of getting out the notices of our meetings. He suggested that the old cuts should be destroyed, and they were directed to be placed in his hands for destruction.

Mr. LAMBERTON, Chairman of the Committee on Publication, reported that the Transactions had been duly distributed, and that there was a balance of about $40 to the credit of the Committee, and that no further work would be undertaken until the begining of the year, when it was supposed a fresh appropriation would be made.

He also called attention to the fact that nothing had been received from the County Commissioners so far.

Donations were received as follows:

From Mr. M. T. Studebaker, near Dauphin, Pa.:

Cannon Ball, from Geiger's Point, Dauphin Co., Pa. (Loaned).

From Mr. WILLIAM L. GORGAS:

Harrisburg Bank Note for $5.00, dated May 14, 1819.

From Mr. J. Lauer Baum, 147 Sylvan Terrace, Harrisburg, Pa.:

Photograph of Kelso Ferry House, opposite Harrisburg, near Cumberland Valley Railroad bridge.

From JAMES M. LAMBERTON, Esq.:

Program of the Proceedings of the Unveiling of the Portraits of Judges Pearson and Simonton.

From Mr. William J. Rose, Pennsylvania Railroad, through JAMES M. LAMBERTON, Esq.:

Pamphlet, "The Old Portage. The Original New Portage and Their Relation to the Present New Portage."

By mail:

Nos. 1 and 2, Vol. 8, Lancaster County Historical Society,

In Memoriam, Michael Arnold, 1840-1903, Philadelphia, Pa.

Register of the Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, 1903.

Mr. Thomas Lynch Montgomery, State Librarian, proposed by Messrs. LAMBERTON and W. A. KELKER, was unanimously elected an Honorary Member.

Messrs. Clark Ellsworth Diehl, proposed by Messrs. ARMOR and RUTHERFORD; and James Glasgo Moore McClure Bay, proposed by Messrs. ARMOR and BASHORE, were unanimously elected Resident Members, Messrs. PEARSON and KLEIN acting as tellers.

Two persons were proposed for Resident Membership and referred as usual.

Mr. FRY: Mr. President, the Executive Committee have succeeded in getting Professor MCGINNES, of Steelton, to read a paper for us to-night.

Professor MCGINNES was received with applause, and said:

I am not deserving of applause. I come to-night somewhat as a truant boy. I have been a member of this organization for some years, but circumstances have prevented me from attending your meetings for some years—how many your Secretary will know. When the Executive Council spoke to me, permission was granted to read a paper on a topic of general or local history. I am sorry that I am compelled to-night to take a subject of general nature, and not of special local interest.

It was my privilege to take a post-graduate course at the University of Pennsylvania, and I had as one of my able instructors Professor McMasters, of the Department of American History; and at the time, we made a pretty close investigation of the money of this country prior to the Constitutional period; so I will inflict upon you to-night a paper on the money of our country prior to the period of the American Constitution.

Professor McGinnes then read his paper, which it is hoped will be presented later.

After the paper had been read, Mr. L. R. Kelker called attention to a similar article prepared by Major Forster, to be found in Vol. 3 of the Pennsylvania Archives, Third Series, p. 761.

An order for $12.00 was drawn in favor of C. A. Stewart, janitor and elevatorman.

Three extra copies of the Transactions of the Society were authorized to be sent to Mrs. Dr. Egle for her use.

Mr. Lamberton called attention to the matter of certificates of membership, stating that he had discovered last Summer in making the abstract of our proceedings that there was such a thing, although he himself had never received one. Such certificates had been authorized in 1898, and while a large number had been prepared, but very few had been issued, scarcely a dozen. The certificate, he stated, is inaccurate in a number of regards, and he suggested that a new and suitable certificate be prepared and issued to each member, and said that he, as Corresponding Secretary, would undertake, if the Society so authorized, to have the certificates prepared and sent out. He stated that the J. Horace McFarland Company, who had prepared the former form of certificates, would print 250 of the revised certificates for $12.00, bound in book form. The omission of one color would decrease the expense $1.50; and if the certificates were unbound and without a stub, a further reduction of $1.50 would be made.

The Corresponding Secretary was then authorized to have the new certificates prepared, the advisability of having it in one or two colors being left to him.

The Recording Secretary announced that the Librarian wished him to state that if any member desired, and would inform him of the hour he would like to gain admission, he should be glad to come and open the room.

Adjourned at 9 o'clock.